III. REMARKS

Claims 1-27 were pending in this application. Claims 1-26 are canceled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuing application. Claim 27 is amended. Claims 28-52 are new. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 27-52 will be pending and under active consideration.

Claim 27 is amended to restrict the scope of the claim to the elected invention. New claims 28-52 are drawn to various embodiments of the elected invention. Support for the above amendments may be found throughout the specification and the claims as originally filed, notably at page 7, lines 1-15, page 17, lines 10-12, page 20, lines 8-12, and claims 1-27. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments are fully supported by the instant specification and request entry of the amendments presented herein.

IV. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this reply is fully responsive to the Office Action in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. Should the Examiner determine that this reply is insufficient, Applicants respectfully request prompt notification, so that any error or omission may be corrected.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in good and proper order for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE, LLP

Bv:

Teddy C. Scott, St. Ph. D. Registration No.: 53 573

Dated: April 20, 2004

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